

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN SWEETPOTATO SEED SYSTEMS IN KENYA

SWEETPOTATO SEED STANDARDS

Sweetpotato is under schedule two in the Kenyan law (Cap 326) which warrants mandatory certification of vines (seed). The sweetpotato certification standard has been reviewed pending approval and circulation for use.

Seed classes used for sweetpotato are:- Breeder seed, Pre-basic, Basic (C1 – C4) and Standard seed

KEPHIS seed inspectors are mandated to carry out inspection of sweetpotato seed. A seed merchant caters for one-time registration fee. Inspection and mileage fees also charged during certification. The merchant can then subcontract seed growers who only pay an initial fee for the first year and thereafter an annual renewal fee.

FIELD STANDARD THRESHOLDS

FIELD STANDARDS	BASIC	C1 – C2
FACTOR		
Off types	None	5 plant per count (100 plants)
Sweet potato weevil	None	5 plant per count (100 plants)
Stem Blight <i>Alternaria pathicola</i>	None	None
Fusarium wilt	None	5 plant per count (100 plants)
Sweet potato virus disease(sweet potato chlorotic stunt virus and Sweetpotato feathery mottle virus)	None	None
Soil rot (<i>Actinomyces ipomoea</i>)	2 plants per count	5 plants per count
*A vine crop may be rejected on the basis of serious field infestations by other pests such as nematodes and beetles.		

CAPACITY BUILDING & ROLL OUT STRATEGY

The seed inspectors and basic multipliers will be trained by end of 2017 on the sweetpotato standard.

The actors include seed merchants, regulators, researchers and policy makers. The field standard thresholds have been revised in agreement with stakeholders to accommodate and create ease in certification. The policy makers are taking lead in organizing and bringing sweetpotato stakeholders together. There is a root and tubers strategy by MoALF that is being implemented that supports seed systems and value addition of sweetpotato.

END USERS AND BENEFITS

The end user are seed multipliers, root producers, processors and consumers of sweetpotato.

Both male and female multiply sweetpotato seed. Their age range from 25 to 68 years. Basic seed multipliers, and development partners feel that the cost involved (inspection and mileage) are expensive. Therefore only a few sweetpotato seed merchants have been registered for certification

LEVEL OF USE OF SEED STANDARDS

By geographic area and gender disaggregation most seed inspectors are male who are based in Kisumu and Kitale regional offices. This covers the sweetpotato growing areas in Kenya.

Development partners (NGOs and CBOs) have taken up more on certification of basic seed production due to increased demand of quality planting material and ready market for roots.

CRITICAL GAPS, CONCERNS AND NEXT STEPS

Gaps

Need for capacity building on sweetpotato seed standard

Certification charges

Next steps

Training seed inspectors and stakeholders on sweetpotato seed standard

Creating awareness on importance of clean certified planting material

SEED INSPECTION IN OPEN FIELD



KEY PARTNERS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE

MoALF-Policy makers

KEPHIS-NPPO/Regulator

KARLO and CIP-Researchers

NGOs and CBOs-Development partners



Republic of Kenya
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries



Winning Markets for Farmers in Africa

